

**SJR**

**22**

## SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT First Committee of Referral

DATE: 4/16/99

FURTHER:

Date of 5-Day Notice: 4/22/99  
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED  
IN TO OFFICE: 4/20/99

HESS Committee considered

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 22

Relating to the National Museum of Women's History and the National Museum of Women's History  
Alaska Council.

and recommends:

- be replaced with \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- adopt previous \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by \_\_\_\_\_ Committee
- further referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

- Senate Bill:**
- same title
  - new title
- House Bill:**
- same title
  - technical title
  - new: SCR# \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNING DO PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	NR	DNP	AM
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓	<i>[Signature]</i>	✓		
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓				
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓				
CHAIR: <i>[Signature]</i>		CHAIR:			

**NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department                      Date      Zero      Fiscal


**PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):\***

Department                      Date      Zero      Fiscal


APPROPRIATION -- no fiscal note

\*include fiscal notes accompanying Governor's bill

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

*Interim*

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Wasilla, Alaska 99654  
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(907) 376-3157 Fax



*Session*

State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
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## SENATOR LYDA GREEN

SENATE DISTRICT N

### SPONSOR STATEMENT

#### SJR 22 - National Museum of Women's History

The National Museum of Women's History (NMWH) is a nonprofit, bipartisan organization working to recognize the tremendous historical contributions of women. Women make up 53% of our nation's population, yet less than 2% of the content of history textbooks address the historical contributions and the lives of the great women of history. In the Smithsonian, there are only two permanent exhibits about women and in our nation's capitol, only 12 of the 451 works of art honoring outstanding individuals honor women. In addition, only 5% of America's national historic sites are devoted to women.

The NMWH is requesting that Congress provide space for a museum in the Auditor's Building or another suitable site near the Capitol in Washington, D.C. Once a site has been designated, the NMWH will be entirely privately funded for all of the expenses related to the restoration of the building and site, maintenance and upkeep of the building, as well as all of the operating costs of the museum. In addition to the museum in Washington, D.C., the NMWH is setting up a cyber-museum on the Internet ([www.nmwh.org](http://www.nmwh.org)).

As of March 1999, the NMWH organizers have raised over \$10 million in pledges to fund the museum effort. Currently, there are 53 members of Congress serving on the NMWH Honorary Board of Trustees and Nancy Murkowski serves on the NMWH Board of Advisors. State councils for the NMWH already have been established in Alaska, Illinois, California, New York, Arizona, Texas and Washington, D.C.; and efforts are under way to establish organizations in every other state, as well as in all of the major metropolitan areas. As you can see, the NMWH is well on its way to becoming a strong, well-supported organization.

Several individuals from Alaska already have contributed much time and effort to promoting the NMWH. Museum supporters are seeking the legislature's support for the museum in Washington, D.C. and to encourage a strong Alaska-based effort as well. With the passage of this resolution, the legislature has an opportunity to support acknowledging the many significant contributions that women have made to our state and our nation.

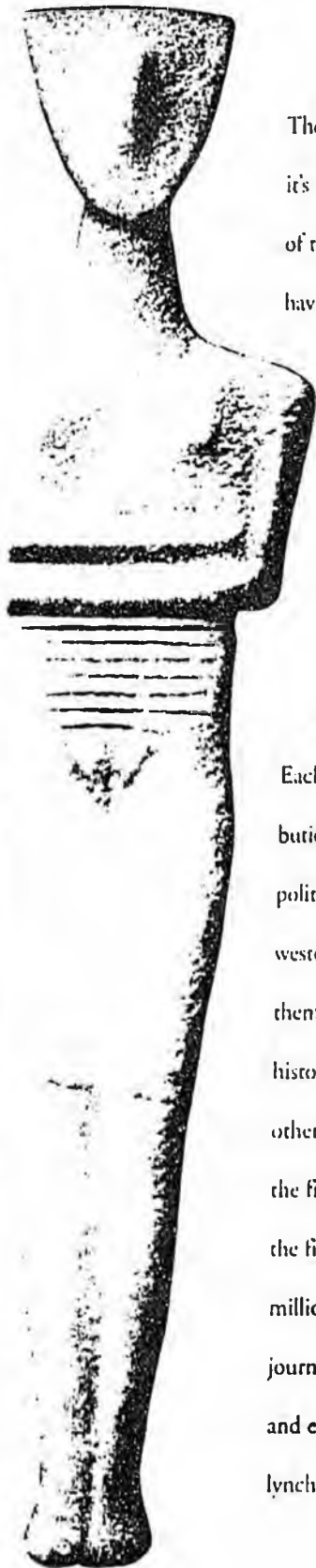
[Senator\\_Lyda\\_Green@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Lyda_Green@legis.state.ak.us)

Alexander Creek • Big Lake • Butte • Caswell • Chickaloon • Chulitna • Finger Lake • Goose Bay • Hatcher Pass • Houston  
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The Other Half of the Story:

# National Museum of Women's History

*Bringing Women's History into  
Mainstream American Culture*



*molded woman*  
1500-2500 b.c.e.

The western world's first novelist, its first known composer, and one of the inventors of the cotton gin have at least two things in common, as do the developer of the binary system used by every computer, the scientist who first discovered nuclear fission, and the drafter of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Each of them made lasting contributions to the social, scientific, political, or artistic development of western culture, though most of them are overlooked in traditional history books. But, they share one other attribute with the creator of the first usable penicillin, one of the first self-made African American millionaires in the U.S., and the journalist who exposed the political and economic objectives of lynching: **They were women.\***

The true stories of women's contributions to the arts and sciences, to politics and economics, and to the religious and social development of our modern world are more fascinating than any fiction. Yet neither traditional female roles nor the women who pushed the boundaries of those roles have been systematically explored and acknowledged.

The accomplishments of women like U.S. Navy Admiral Grace Hopper, who in the 1950s developed the first operating system for COBOL, the first computer programming language, are only recognized within their professions. The efforts of Ida B. Wells-Barnett, the African American journalist and author who exposed the horrors of lynching, are even less well known. While Eleanor Roosevelt is famous as first lady, her role as principal architect of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is hardly known by the general public.

There is a deeply felt need among girls and women to learn of their own unique history and to see themselves reflected with respect in our culture. Knowledge of one's past is critical to developing a personal sense of competence and potential. Through the National Museum of Women's History, we can make women visible!

#### The Time for the Past is Now!

*"It could be that only now will the past open up to us with unexpected freshness and tell us things that no one as yet had ears to hear."*

*Hannah Arendt*  
Philosopher/Political Scientist

In the age of the personal computer, the Internet, and instantaneous global news, both rules and roles have changed. The timing has never been better for a national institution dedicated to preserving, presenting, and sharing a more comprehensive view of human history—a story that can inspire girls, boys, men, and women to extend the limits of their own imaginations. Mixing wonder, admiration, discovery, scholarship, and outright fun, the National Museum of Women's History will add new dimensions to our notions about mothers, daughters, sisters, wives, and counter 5000 years of cultural stereotypes.

#### The Past is the Foundation of the Future

*"...women have a special contribution to make to any group enterprise, and I feel it is up to them to contribute the kinds of awareness that relatively few men... have incorporated through their education."*

*Margaret Mead*  
Anthropologist  
Author



NMWH spearheaded the effort to United the funds to move this monument to suffrage leader Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Lucretia Mott from the U.S. Capitol Crypt to the U.S. Capitol Rotunda



\*How many of these history-making women can you identify? Their names are given on back page.

*"Filtered through the prism of gender, history looks quite different, revealing new kinds of questions to be asked about the past, challenging old assumptions, and generating a more comprehensive view of historical issues once thought to be resolved."*

*Edith P. Mayo*

*Curatorial Consultant, NMWH*

*Curator Emeritus, National Museum of American History,  
Smithsonian Institution*

Visibility in the past equals empowerment in the present. Gaining knowledge and insight into women's past will help us to weave the experiences of women and men into a shared fabric of history and will help build an inclusive partnership for the future.

Your financial support of the National Museum of Women's History will ensure

that the ambitious programs of this new national treasure are in place by the target date of 2003.

Join ordinary citizens, major corporations, philanthropic foundations, Members of Congress, a bipartisan cross-section of political and business clubs, and help build a legacy of insight and knowledge.

## The National Museum of Women's History will be

an innovative and inspirational resource for all. And you can be a part of it. Your assistance will help the Museum:

- Enhance the NMWH CyberMuseum ([www.nmwh.org](http://www.nmwh.org))
- Create a wide range of programming for a diverse audience that enhances the understanding of women's social, political, scientific, religious, and artistic experiences and contributions
- Showcase issues of contemporary importance
- Preserve, document, study, and interpret women's history
- Communicate with the American public through seminars, publications, and educational outreach programs
- Assemble a research library, including oral histories, films, and videotapes
- Develop educational materials and research available to a global audience
- Collaborate with other organizations devoted to broadening the nation's and the world's appreciation of the limitless potential of humankind
- Build the physical museum in Washington, DC



*NMWH commissioned this bronze bust of abolition and women's rights crusader Sojourner Truth sculpted by Reynaldo Advisory Board Member Fred Marsell. President Karen Stener, and Trustees Joan Bradley Wages and Patricia Ghigliino unveiled the bust in honor of the 150th anniversary of the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, N.Y.*



*Margaret Hauke White, an abolitionist and pioneering photojournalist, made history as she documented it.*



*President Karen Stener celebrates the launch of the NMWH CyberMuseum at the National Press Club with Advisory Board Members Pat Heltz and Lisa Hopkins.*



# The National Museum of Women's History

*Joining Together  
to Build the Future*

## *History-making women (identified in order mentioned in text)*

- Aphra Behn
- Hildegard of Bingen
- Catherine Littlefield Greene
- Ada Byron, Countess of Lovelace
- Dr. Lise Meitner
- Dr. Gladys L. Hobby
- Madame C.J. Walker
- Ida B. Wells-Barnett

More than 170 experts—scholars, social scientists, writers, politicians, business people, fund raisers, and many others—are devoting their time and talent on a voluntary basis. Their experience, knowledge, and collective wisdom will help formulate the Museum's themes, content, and programs and, as the needs of the organization grow, guide the selection of additional advisors. A national board of academic and museum professionals has been established to develop the museum program design.

Overseeing the growing list of activities is the Board of Trustees, composed of the following dedicated and accomplished individuals:

Karen K. Staser  
President and Founder

Ann E. W. Stone  
Secretary

Allida Black  
Ph.D., Historian

Joan A. Meacham  
Vice President

Joan Bradley Wages  
Director of Development

Mary Rothschild  
Ph.D., Historian

Patricia Ghiglini  
Treasurer

Kay Cash-Smith  
Organizational Development Officer

Edith Mayo  
Curatorial Consultant (ex officio)

The Museum is proud to have the invaluable assistance of the law firm of Covington and Burling

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Visit us on the Web: [www.nmwh.org](http://www.nmwh.org)

The Museum acknowledges, with sincere appreciation, the contributions of the following supporters whose financial assistance made this brochure possible:  
American Express—Gold Sponsor  
Kimberly King—Silver Sponsor

This brochure is dedicated in loving memory of Jason William Hopkins (September 4, 1974–July 2, 1997).

## The National Museum of Women's History

The National Museum of Women's History will preserve, display, and celebrate the rich, diverse heritage of women and bring it into the cultural mainstream. It will share with millions of American citizens and international visitors the compelling, but often untold, stories of women's traditional and nontraditional lives, contributions, and perspectives.

The Museum's exhibits will showcase the specific achievements women have made in every area of human endeavor and celebrate their contributions as wife, mother, sister, daughter, healer, teacher, scientist, artist, entrepreneur, and leader.

The Museum, located in Washington, DC, will:

- collect, document, study, and interpret women's history;
- distribute information and promote interest in women's history through seminars, research, the Cyber Museum, publications, and educational outreach programs;
- develop a repository of oral histories, films, and videos;
- distribute educational materials and resources;
- produce diverse programming to enhance the understanding of women's history and other issues of contemporary significance; and
- collaborate with other organizations, entities, and individuals engaged in similar purposes.

**Help Us Make the Museum  
a Reality by 2003**

## Board of Directors

President & Founder	Karen K. Staser
Vice President	Joan A. Mcacham
Secretary	Ann E.W. Stone
Treasurer	Patricia Ghiglino
Directors	Kay Cash-Smith Joan Wages

## Board of Advisors

More than 150 experts are volunteering their time and talent to help design the Museum and its content. Through their committees, they will evaluate the need for specific exhibits and recommend the Museum's themes, content, and programs. The Advisory Board will expand to include individuals with talents that are needed at various stages in the Museum's development.

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"Women must begin to see themselves as actors in the past, to gain strength and inspiration for our struggles in the present. History can be a powerful tool. Visibility in the past equals empowerment in the present and the future."

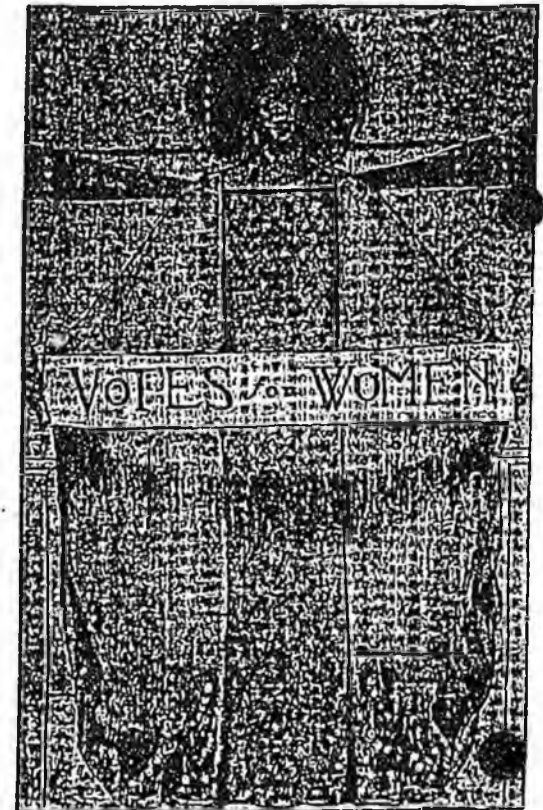
**Edith P. Mayo, Curator Emeritus**  
NMWH Curatorial Consultant  
National Museum of American History  
Smithsonian Institution

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This brochure is dedicated  
in loving memory of  
**JASON WILLIAM HOPKINS**  
September 4th, 1974 - July 2nd, 1997

## The National Museum of Women's History



*Sharing Women's  
Rich Cultural Heritage  
with  
Current and Future  
Generations*

## Ancient Heritage Modern Impact

Our self-perception derives from our experiences and from an awareness of previous generations' contributions to the arts, science, culture, business, education, and family life. This knowledge empowers a woman to reach her full potential and competence in her family, in the classroom, and in her career.

Unfortunately, accounts through the ages have underrated and misunderstood women's achievements and contributions. Less than two percent of the content in modern history texts addresses women's contributions to civilization. As a result, few Americans know about the accomplishments of women from ancient times to the modern day.

The National Museum of Women's History (NMWH) will showcase these achievements and help today's women and girls — and future generations — transcend traditional gender barriers and use their talents in whatever career or role they choose. It will also share with men and boys how generations of their female ancestors have shaped our nation and our lives. We will celebrate the many ways that women have contributed to the enrichment of our culture.

NMWH is the first and only national museum dedicated to women's history. We will showcase artifacts, association objects, paintings, statuary, diaries, and publications in a permanent collection and traveling exhibits. Americans across the nation will experience these treasures first hand through engaging exhibits and interactive, hands-on learning.

The Cyber Museum on the Internet will bring the Museum's message and contents into the home, classroom, and work place. Resource kits will help teachers and professors incorporate new information into their curricula. The Museum will serve 2.5 million visitors each year at its Washington, D.C. site and many millions more with its traveling exhibits, classroom programs, and web site.

## Did You Know That ...

- In 1977 the Defense Department named its computer system *ADA* in honor of Ada Byron, who designed the punch card program for computers in 1843 and first formulated the *garbage in-garbage out* principle.
- Admiral Grace Murray Hopper created the basis of computer software by 1957 and helped develop COBOL.
- Gladys Hobby produced the first usable penicillin in the early 1940s.
- Dr. Lise Meitner discovered nuclear fission (splitting the atom) in 1938.
- Madame C.J. Walker, an African-American, became our first woman self-made millionaire by starting a cosmetics company. She was born towards the end of the Civil War.
- Ida Wells-Barnett, an influential African-American journalist and political activist, exposed lynching as an integral part of racial oppression. She analyzed how the fear of physical violence is used to maintain political and economic control.
- Harriet Tubman played a courageous role in the Underground Railroad and staunchly supported the rights and dignity of African-American women.
- Catherine Littlefield Greene partnered with Eli Whitney to invent the Cotton Gin. Greene then financed the patent and fabrication.
- In the matrilineal clan system of the Native American Iroquois, women wielded substantial political power. Thomas Jefferson credited the Iroquois concept of the relationship between states and a central federal government as an inspiration to the founding fathers who created our system of government. Unfortunately, they left out participation by women.
- Aphra Behn, born in 1640, wrote the first novel, *Oroonoko*, 30 years before Daniel Defoe wrote *Robinson Crusoe* (generally credited as the first novel). She also wrote 17 plays in 17 years, which ran in London's only two theaters.
- Hildegard of Bingen, a 12<sup>th</sup> century philosopher, scientist, and composer, wrote two scientific texts. She analyzed the causes and treatment of 47 diseases and made astute observations about diabetes, the circulatory system, and women's reproductive health. Scholars only recently discovered her musical compositions. *The Washington Post* recently credited her as the world's first known composer.
- Christine de Pisan is the first known professional female writer. Celebrated in her day, she produced many fine works, some of which contained autobiographical details that were rare in the Medieval period. In *The Book of the City of Ladies* (1405), she compiled stories about past heroines — the first known effort to document women's history — and defended women's virtue and their contributions to the world.
- In the 11<sup>th</sup> century, Trotula of Salerno, Italy pioneered preventative health. Healers used her handwritten and printed texts for the next 700 years.
- Hypatia of Alexandria, Egypt — among the first world-renowned scientists — excelled in mathematics, astronomy, mechanics, and philosophy. Born in 370 AD, she invented the plane astrolabe that could solve problems in spherical astronomy. She wrote *Arithmetica*, a thirteen-volume definitive algebra text.

# National Museum of Women's History

## THE MUSEUM'S HISTORICAL MISSION

The National Museum of Women's History will provide, for the first time ever, the opportunity for U.S. citizens and foreign visitors to learn about the role women have played in the Americas, in the context of world history.

Its creative exhibits will document such great female historical figures as Hypatia, the Egyptian woman who pioneered the fields of mathematics and astronomy; Christine de Pisan, one of the earliest students of women's history and one of the first known professional female writers; Ida B. Wells, the African-American writer and activist who led the crusade against lynching in America; and Rachel Carson, a leader in the environmental movement whose book *Silent Spring* raised Americans' consciousness about the dangers of pesticides.

The Museum will address subjects of cultural importance which have not always been considered part of history. For example, before the 1970s, and before women entered the historical profession in significant numbers, such topics as marriage, child care, obstetrics, and housework were not considered historical subjects. Today, we understand them to be of critical importance to the development of world civilization.

Finally, the Museum will address conventional historical topics from new points of view. For example, at the NMWH young boys and girls will learn about the Middle Ages, the American Revolution, and the Civil Rights Movement from the perspective of how these historical events involved and affected women.

Fact Sheet on National Museum of Women's History (NMWH)  
and Requested Legislation  
March 30, 1999

- NMWH was created as a nonprofit bipartisan organization to bring women's experiences and contributions to the nation into the cultural mainstream. Women are missing from the historical record. For example, although 53% of our population is female, less than 2% of the content of current history textbooks addresses the rich and unique heritage of women, as do less than 5% of our national historic sites. In the Smithsonian, there are only two permanent exhibits on women while in the U.S. Capitol, only 12 of the 451 works of art honoring individuals are of women.
- NMWH requests legislation to authorize the transfer of the Auditors Building from the Forest Service to NMWH.
  1. The Auditor's Building is a government-owned, historic building not open to the general public. The Forest Service currently uses it for office space and does not fully reimburse the government for this use. The Forest Service has been recently downsized and could be housed elsewhere.
  2. The Auditors Building would be better utilized and protected as the home of the National Museum of Women's History. Under NMWH the building would be protected as an historic site and made accessible to the public. NMWH is and will be privately funded. In addition to renovation, NMWH would pay for maintenance and upkeep on the building, which is now an expense to GSA. See enclosure.
  3. Surveys indicate that women will play an even more decisive role in upcoming elections. Support for NMWH will be looked upon favorably by women.
- NMWH is supported by members of Congress and the White House:
  1. SR 706 and HR 1246 were introduced, on March 24, 1999, by Senator Olympia Snowe and Representative Carolyn Maloney. The legislation calls for a committee to select a federal site to house NMWH. It was initiated prior to the President's Commission's report:  
The President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History issued a report on March 15, 1999 stating the need for NMWH in our nation's capital.
  2. 53 members of Congress serve on the NMWH Honorary Board of Trustees. See enclosure.
  3. Congressional spouses serving on the NMWH Board of Advisors include Nancy Murkowski, Tricia Lott, Linda Daschle, Jane Geppardt, Elaine Chao, and Franki Roberts.
- Rep. Gail Phillips has introduced HJR 14 in the Alaska Legislature in support of NMWH.
- NMWH has state councils in Alaska, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Phoenix, Texas, and the Washington Metro Area.
- A ten-page article on NMWH will be published in the May 1999 issue of FORBES Magazine. It will feature Alaskan businesswoman and NMWH Alaska Council member, Eleanor Andrews.
- NMWH has raised over \$10 million in pledges.
- NMWH initiated and paid for the movement of the Woman Suffrage Statue into the U.S. Capitol Rotunda. It honors the three leaders responsible for the largest single extension of democratic rights in our nation's history.
- NMWH's critically acclaimed exhibit, *Rights for Women*, opened at the World Financial Center in NYC in October 1998. Work is underway with corporate sponsors to travel the exhibit throughout the U.S. as part of the White House Millennium Project.
- NMWH commissioned a bronze bust of Sojourner Truth in honor of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first Woman's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, where it has been on display since July 1998. Discussions with Congress are underway to donate this work of art to the U.S. Capitol.
- NMWH launched its CyberMuseum with BellAtlantic in September 1998 at the National Press Club.